

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for inhibiting alopecia, comprising:

~~[the increase]~~ increasing in the cellular amount of hair [keratins] keratin.

2. (Amended) The process [according to claim] of Claim 1, wherein said hair [keratins are] keratin is added to the cells.

3. (Amended) The process [according to claim] of Claim 2, wherein [the] said hair [keratins are] keratin is present in the form of [DNA expressing] a polynucleotide encoding the same.

4. (Amended) The process [according to any one of claims] of Claim 1 [to 3], wherein [the gene expression of substances] a substance activating gene expression in hair [keratins are] keratin is added to the cells.

5. (Amended) The process [according to claim] of Claim 4, wherein [the] said substances are present in the form of [DNA expressing] a polynucleotide encoding the same.

6. (Amended) The process [according to any one of claims] of Claim 1 [to 5], wherein [the] said hair [keratins comprise] keratin is selected from the group consisting of Ha2, Ha2, Ha3 and Ha4.

7. (Amended) The process [according to claim] of Claim 4 or 5, wherein [the substances comprise] said substance is selected from the group consisting of the gene product of the whn gene [and/or] and a substance [the expression of substances] activating the expression of the whn gene.

8. (Amended) A process of identifying alopecia-inhibiting substances, [in which the] comprising:

____ (a) cultivating cells in the presence of a candidate substance;
____ (B) determining an increase in the cellular amount [is determined by] of hair [keratins] keratin [and/or substances] or of a substance activating the gene expression [thereof] of hair keratin.

9. (Amended) The process [according to claim] of Claim 8, wherein said cells [are used in which] comprise a fusion gene, wherein one or several [expressing] hair keratin expressing genes [are present in] are fused [form with] to a reporter gene.

10. (Amended) The process [according to claim] of Claim 8 or 9, wherein [the] said hair [keratins comprise] keratin is selected from the group consisting of Ha1, Ha2, Ha3, and Ha4.

11. (Amended) The process [according to any one of claims] of Claim 8 [to 10], wherein said cells [are used in which] comprise a fusion gene, wherein one or several [expressible substances] genes expressing a substance activating the gene expression of hair [keratins are] keratin [are present in] are fused [form] [with the] to a reporter gene.

12. (Amended) The process [according to any one of claims] of Claim 8 [to 11], wherein [the substance comprise] said substance is a gene product of the whn gene.

13. (Amended) The process [according to any one of claims] of Claim 9 [to 12], wherein [the] said reporter gene [codes for] encodes an enzyme.

14. (Amended) The process [according to any one of claims] of Claim 9 [to 12], wherein [the] said reporter gene [codes for] encodes a fluorescent protein.

15. (Amended) The process [according to any one of claims] of Claim 9 [to 14], wherein [the] said fusion [genes are] gene is present in extrachromosomal form.

16. (Amended) The process [according to any one of claims] of Claim 9 [to 14], wherein [the] said fusion [genes are] gene is integrated in the cell genome.

17. (Amended) The process [according to any one of claims] of Claim 9 [to 16], [which also uses substances for the detection of the expressed] further comprising detecting expression of hair [keratins and/or] keratin, or of [substances] a substance activating the gene expression [thereof and/or the] of hair keratin or said fusion [genes] gene by use of a suitable substance.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. The claims as pending are attached hereto as *Appendix A*.